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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 18, 2004

Contact: Ken Willett, director of public safety, 243-6131; Rita Munzenrider, director, University Relations, 243-4824.

UM STUDENT REPORTS EARLY-MORNING ATTACK ON CAMPUS

MISSOULA –

A University of Montana student reported that she was sexually assaulted early Saturday morning in the parking lot of a campus residence hall.

The 19-year-old student called 911 just before 4 a.m. to report that she was attacked outside the main entrance of Pantzer Hall. While the woman was uncertain what time the assault occurred, she told UM public safety officers that she and her roommate had returned from downtown about 2 a.m. and gone upstairs to their Pantzer Hall suite. Sometime later, the woman said, she went outside to smoke a cigarette and was grabbed by a man who dragged her to a car and raped her.

The woman told officers she woke up in the parking lot and went inside to call for help. The student was taken by ambulance to St. Patrick Hospital where she was examined and later transported to First Step.

The investigation has been turned over to the Missoula Police Department, said Ken Willett, director of the UM Office of Public Safety.

Meanwhile, campus officials on Saturday posted flyers in campus residence halls and other buildings alerting students of the reported assault. The flyer advises students to travel in pairs or call the Student Escort Service at 243-2777 to avoid walking alone on campus. All students are asked to report any suspicious activity to the Office of Public Safety at 243-6131.

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